

SENATE RESOLUTION  
8704

By Senators Rasmussen, Benton, Berkey, Brandland, Brown, Carlson, Deccio, Doumit, Eide, Esser, Fairley, Finkbeiner, Franklin, Fraser, Hale, Hargrove, Haugen, Hewitt, Honeyford, Horn, Jacobsen, Johnson, Kastama, Keiser, Kline, Kohl-Welles, McAuliffe, McCaslin, Morton, Mulliken, Murray, Oke, Parlette, Pflug, Poulsen, Prentice, Regala, Roach, Schmidt, Sheahan, B. Sheldon, T. Sheldon, Shin, Spanel, Stevens, Swecker, Thibaudeau, Winsley and Zarelli

WHEREAS, Autism is a developmental disability that typically appears during the first two years of life and continues through the individual's lifespan; and

WHEREAS, Many children are not diagnosed until after three years of age, often because of lack of recognition of Autism characteristics by general practitioners; and

WHEREAS, There are many different characteristics in individuals with Autism-delayed or deficient communication, decreased or unresponsive social interaction, unusual reaction to normal stimuli, a lack of spontaneous or imaginative play, and behavioral challenges; and

WHEREAS, There is no known cause and no known cure, although with aggressive and continuous therapy, some individuals can learn to acclimate to their environment and mask symptoms of their disability; and

WHEREAS, All individuals with Autism deserve the chance to be included as a valued part of their community; and

WHEREAS, Autism can have a devastating impact on the families of those affected by Autism; and

WHEREAS, Families, caregivers, advocates, and organizations are striving to bring about positive changes for children and adults with Autism; and

WHEREAS, Through research, legislation, training, support groups, advocacy, and increased awareness, we will be empowered and ready to meet the challenges to serve the growing population of individuals with Autism;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate support those affected by Autism by observing April as Autism Awareness Month as declared by Governor Locke; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Honorable Gary Locke.

I, Milton H. Doumit, Jr., Secretary of the Senate,  
do hereby certify that this is a true and  
correct copy of Senate Resolution 8704,  
adopted by the Senate  
February 26, 2004

MILTON H. DOUMIT, JR.  
Secretary of the Senate